



BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
2420 DEL PASO ROAD, SUITE 255
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95834
TEL: (916) 575-7170
www.optometry.ca.gov



FACT SHEET

REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A LICENSE TO PRACTICE OPTOMETRY

To obtain a license to practice optometry in the state of California, you must:

- Submit a completed “APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE AS AN OPTOMETRIST”.

To download an application, visit the board’s website at www.optometry.ca.gov. Click on the link entitled "Licensee/Applicant Information" located on the left side of the Board’s homepage. Then click on “Application for Licensure As An Optometrist”.

- Submit a non-refundable application fee of \$275.00
- Have graduated from an approved school of optometry. You must request that your school send directly to the Board, an official school transcript showing that you were awarded a degree in “Doctor of Optometry” and the year it was awarded.
- Have your fingerprints taken for criminal background check.

CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS: Must use the live scan form for this service. Live scan forms can be obtained by submitting a request to the Board. For information on live scan service and locations, go to the California Office of the Attorney General’s web site at www.caag.state.ca.us, click on “Fingerprint Submissions”, and then click on “List of Applicant Live Scan Sites”. A live scan fingerprint fee of \$56.00 is to be paid at your live scan site at the time you submit your live scan form for service.

NON-CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS: Must use a paper fingerprint card and service. The card is obtained by submitting a request to the Board. For information on fingerprint card service and locations, contact your local, county or state law enforcement agency.

The fee for the fingerprint card background check is \$56.00. Submit this fee, payable to the Board of Optometry, along with your application. Should you wish to expedite your fingerprint card background check, an additional fee of \$10.00 is required. Expediting is for the fingerprint card only.

- Have been successful in the NBEO examination, parts I, II, & III. You must request that an official transcript of your scores (OSR) be sent directly to the Board.

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES: In order to sit for NBEO examinations, you must receive Board sponsorship. To receive sponsorship approval from the Board, you must submit a written request along with a certified copy of your official school transcript showing that you were awarded a degree in “Doctor of Optometry”.

- Have been successful in the California Laws and Regulations Examination.

The Laws and Regulations are listed in the 2006 Edition of the California Laws and Regulations related to the Practice of Optometry. To review or download the laws and regulations, you may visit the Board’s website and click on the link entitled “Laws & Regulations”. Then click on the link entitled “2006 Law Book”. You may also wish to purchase the 2006 Law Book by contacting the publisher’s customer service department at 800-833-9844.

Applications for licensure are good for one year from the date of receipt at the Board's office